

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MAGI # 0301012404

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Villa Anneslie

AND/OR COMMON

Anneslie

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

529 Dunkirk Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Towson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

24

COUNTY

Baltimore

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Roger Chylinski-Polubinski

STREET & NUMBER

529 Dinkirk Road

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR
☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Villa Anneslie, 529 Dunkirk Road, Towson, Maryland, was built c. 1855 by Frederick Harrison as a summer home. Mr. Harrison, a civil engineer, named his estate for his daughter Anne. Anneslie, one of a line of estates on York Road from Towson to Waverly, was built on a 100-acre tract bounded by York Road on the west, Sherwood Road (east), Regester Avenue (north) and on the south by Windwood Road. As was typical of adjoining estates, the house was built far from York Road and was surrounded by groves of trees, fields and wooded areas. It remained so until 1922 when the tract was purchased by Charles H. Steffey, a realtor, who developed it into a remote, middle class suburb of Baltimore. The lots were narrow, most being only 25 feet wide and 125 feet deep, and the modern houses required several. The villa and a surviving outbuilding to the rear, said to have been a slave cabin on the Govans estate, are located on ten lots.

Anneslie, built of brick covered with clapboard, is an Italianate, two-story villa. It was designed by John Rudolph Niernsee of Niernsee & Neilson, a Baltimore architectural firm. Though the house is not exceptionally elaborate, the architect closely followed A. J. Downing's designs. Niernsee's asymmetrical design with a central tower over the entrance and his floor plan can be readily found in Downing's Books.

Anneslie's main elevation faces west toward York Road. Its three-story tower forms part of a one-story porch which extends across the three bays to the north. To the south of the tower, the parlor (music room) and bedroom above project slightly and have a large two-story, rectangular bay window. A servants' wing forms the northern elevation along Dunkirk Road. On its first floor were the kitchen, laundry, pantry, store rooms and a bathroom. A servants' stair leads to three small bedrooms above. The cast iron wood stove has been moved to the stone outbuilding, now a guest house, and the servants' wing has been converted into an apartment.

The main part of Anneslie is maintained as a residence. A wide entrance hall extends the length of the central part of the house and, at each end, has double doors with sidelights. Flanking the hall are the dining room on the north and, on the south, parlor and drawing rooms which open onto a porch. The stair hall, located at the rear of the entrance hall, extends along the side of the dining room so that only the base of the stair is visible from the entrance. On the second floor are five bedrooms and a bath with fixtures dating from the Civil

(see Continuation Sheet No. 1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Anneslie

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7 DESCRIPTION

War period. In the stair hall to the tower room is the original expansion tank for the hot water heating system.

The detailing and decoration of Anneslie is good but not extensive. On the exterior, most of the architraves, including circular headed windows, are plain. However, the circular, third-story tower window as well as the entrance are flanked by pilasters and have prominent keystones. Most of the gables have a small, circular window. There are also Tuscan pilasters in the entrance hall that visually separate it from the rear portion so as to form a separate stair hall. None of the gas light fixtures remain, but there are original marble mantels throughout Anneslie. Most have rectangular openings and some still have large, elaborate mirrors above. The mantel in the dining room is black.

To the rear of Anneslie is a small uncoursed rubble stone building now used as a guest house. The stone walls are original, but the roof with interior exposed beams is not.

SIGNIFICANCE

B2.101

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Rudolph Niernsee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Villa Anneslie is one of the nineteenth century country houses which have survived the commercial and residential development along York Road from Baltimore to Towson. At one time it was part of a continuous line of estates along that road from Waverly to Towson. Though now surrounded by suburbia, this house is a fine, well-proportioned example of an Italianate villa. Anneslie's architect knew and closely followed A. J. Downing's pattern books for his romantic design. This house is not as rich in ornament as some other similar villas, but it remains in good condition and has not been significantly altered.

Anneslie was designed by John Rudolph Niernsee, a prominent Baltimore architect and member of the firm Niernsee and Neilson. Niernsee, a Viennese, achieved a reputation as an engineer while a draftsman for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In 1854, he was asked to comment on structural problems in the new South Carolina Capitol and was later placed in charge of the project. He and E. G. Lind represented Baltimore when the American Institute of Architects was formed in 1857. His firm designed many of Baltimore's townhouses, including the Thomas-Jencks-Gladding House, Miller House and Asbury House. They also designed Camden Station, Alexandroffsky (Ross Winans' house in west Baltimore) and Stoneleigh (demolished), Anneslie's neighboring estate. Their designs, including Anneslie, show John Niernsee as an accomplished romantic architect.

The original owner of the Anneslie estate was also a prominent Baltimorean. Born in Canaan, Connecticut in 1804, Frederick Harrison was a gentleman farmer. He went to West Point but resigned in 1826 for health reasons. After receiving an appointment as a government engineer, he became assistant to Dr. William Howard in Baltimore. Working with Howard, he chose and surveyed a route for a canal between Baltimore and Washington, surveyed the Charleston and Augusta Railroad, the Northern Central Railroad as far as Cockeysville and the Michigan and Illinois Canal (1829-30). In addition, he did reconnaissance of the Ohio River for a B&O Railroad route (1827) and laid out

(see Continuation Sheet No. 2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

BA-101
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Anneslie

ITEM NUMBER 8,9 PAGE 2

8 SIGNIFICANCE

lines for the Baltimore and Susquehanna (later Penn-Central) Railroad through Jones Falls. Harrison again resigned because of ill health and traveled in the West Indies and Europe with his wife, daughter of the wealthy Baltimore merchant James Wilson. After building Anneslie, the Harrisons spent their winters in Nassau and Florida. During the Civil War, they lived in Ireland and England. Their daughter Anne married Lennox Birckhead, and the estate remained in that family until recently purchased by the present owner. It was Mr. Birckhead's son Lennox by his second marriage who sold all but three acres of the estate to a realtor in 1922 for the Anneslie subdivision.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Stoneleigh and Anneslie, Two Famous Old Homesteads of Pre-Civil War Period." Jeffersonian, Jan. 5, 1934.

"Street Signs: Anneslie." Sunday Sun, March 21, 1954.

BA-101

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County.
Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881.
(see Continuation Sheet No. 2)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY $\frac{3}{4}$ acre

[illegible]

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

~~LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES~~

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

NAME / TITLE

1/25/77

ORGANIZATION

DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

..(301): 269-2438

Annapolis,

STATE

Maryland 21401

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE _____

LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

1 HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
EST:

DATE _____

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

030101 ~~BT~~ 400A
2 04

Maryland
Baltimore County
District IX

"VILLA ANNESLIE"

BA-101
Anneslie Estate

529 Dunkirk Road, east of York Road

early 1800's

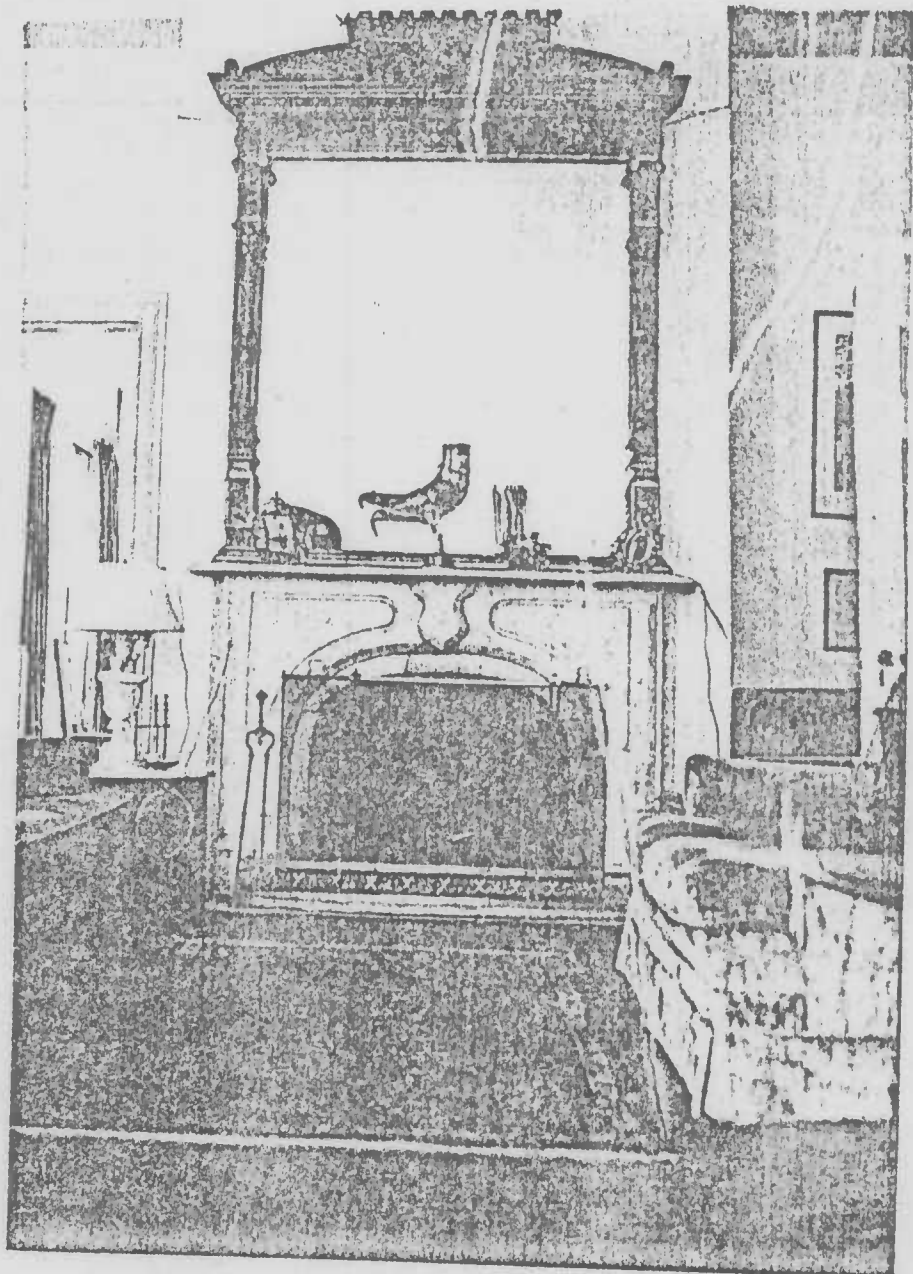
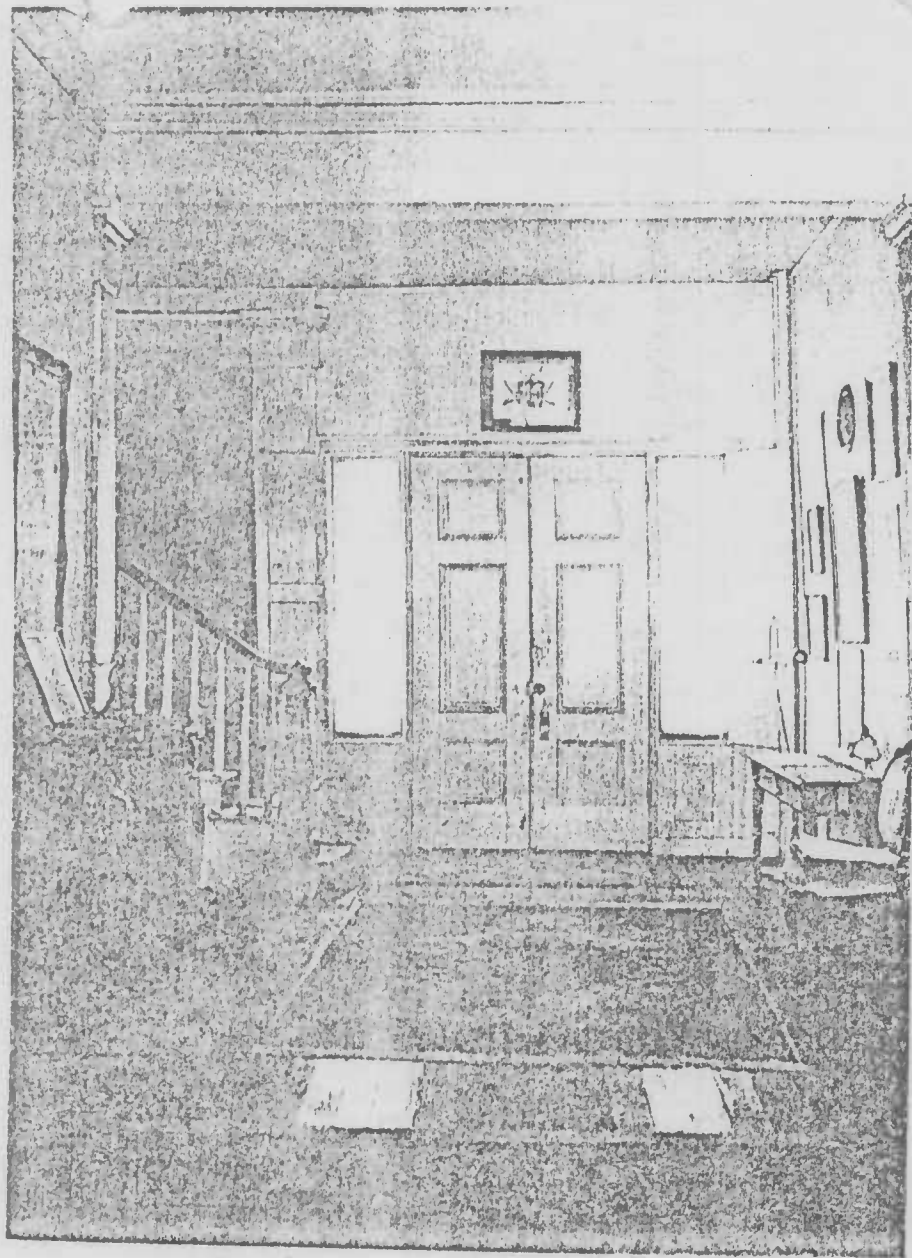
Built as a summer home by Frederick Harrison on 119-acre tract; style of an Italian Villa; three stories, white clapboard, double chimneys, cupola.

Architect, John Rudolph Niernsee.

Owners, Mr. & Mrs. Lennox Birckhead

(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965





BA-101

Anneslie

George Andreve

date unknown

Negative in file at MHT

Front facade



BA-101

Anneslie

George Andreve

Date unknown

Negative on file at MHT

Rear elevation

BA-101



Annesdie
Balto. Co.

BA-101

front (west)



Anneslie

Balto. Co.

BA-101

rear (east)